

**AGENDA:** May 27, 2003

**4.8**

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Police

**TITLE:** Animal Control Services—Amendment to Agreement with the City of Palo Alto

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the City Manager to execute a six-month bridge agreement with the City of Palo Alto for the provision of animal control services.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The current contract expires June 30, 2003 and this report is requesting a six-month bridge agreement contract for services with the City of Palo Alto. The cost of this service will be \$145,585 for the period of July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. Funds for this agreement are included in the proposed FY 2003-04 budget.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

The City of Mountain View began contracting with the City of Palo Alto for animal control services in 1993 in response to Santa Clara County's decision to withdraw from providing animal control services to cities within the County.

The City's current agreement with the City of Palo Alto, entered into in September 2000, guarantees the provision of a wide range of services which include the following "core" services mandated by State law:

- Pickup of contained, stray animals and any animals that are vicious or injured.
- Investigation of animal bite incidents.
- Rabies control and dead animal pickup and disposal.
- Licensing of dogs, including the maintenance of license files, notification of residents of licensing requirements and low-cost rabies vaccinations.
- Shelter services (includes quarantine, rabies testing, spay/neuter programs, euthanasia and disposal).

- Medical services for dogs and cats delivered to the shelter (includes 24-hour veterinary, rabies control and monitoring of quarantined animals).

A more comprehensive listing of animal control services provided by the City of Palo Alto to the City of Mountain View is included in the scope of services of the original agreement which is attached to this report (Attachment 1).

The current contract and proposed bridge contract (Attachment 2) contain a formula for payment based on the City of Mountain View's projected usage of Palo Alto animal control services. For example, if the number of animals handled from Mountain View were thirty percent (30%) of the total number of animals handled by City of Palo Alto Animal Control Services, the City of Mountain View would be responsible for thirty percent (30%) of the amount the City of Palo Alto has budgeted for animal control services in that fiscal year. The City of Mountain View will pay an estimated amount during the current fiscal year, which is based on the City's usage during the previous fiscal year. At the conclusion for the fiscal year, the actual totals will be calculated and the City will either make up the difference or receive a refund, depending on whether the estimate was high or low.

The City of Palo Alto is requesting a six-month bridge agreement so that all details of a new multi-year, long-term contract, including the addition of the City of Sunnyvale as one of the cities being provided services, can be finalized. City staff will negotiate the terms of the new agreement and return to Council with the proposed contract. Some of the considerations of the long-term agreement will be the City of Mountain View's portion of the money spent for necessary capital improvements, term of the agreement and contract consistency among all other cities contracting with the City of Palo Alto for animal services.

As noted above, the new contract, which will become effective January 1, 2004, will provide for the City of Sunnyvale also contracting with Palo Alto for Animal Control Services. It is anticipated that Sunnyvale will pay for 70 percent (\$1,100,000) of the capital improvements necessary for the building improvements. The cost of the remaining 30 percent of improvements is to be shared by all other contracting cities. The City of Mountain View's share of the capital improvement costs is estimated at this time to be \$150,380. Over the course of the next six months, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mountain View will meet to negotiate the terms and to finalize a contract. The estimated costs for service are not expected to increase with the addition of Sunnyvale. Rather, it is projected that the City of Mountain View's share will drop from the current 23.7 percent to 17.9 percent.

It is the Police Department's perspective that the City of Palo Alto has provided good service to the City of Mountain View during the past nine years and that the City of Palo Alto has been responsive to the community expectations and City needs for administrative and legal

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support. It is recommended that the City Manager be authorized to execute the attached agreement.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Staff completed an extensive analysis of alternatives to contracting with the City of Palo Alto for animal control services as part of the Fiscal Year 1997-98 budget development process. That analysis was reviewed and other alternatives were explored in preparation for this bridge agreement. The City of Sunnyvale recently prepared an extensive analysis of other options for animal control services and found that the City of Palo Alto offers the most cost-effective services. At the present time, it is the conclusion of staff that continuing to contract with the City of Palo Alto offers the City of Mountain View the highest level of animal control services at the most reasonable cost.

### **PUBLIC NOTICING**

In addition to distributing copies of this report in accordance with the City's standard agenda posting requirements, copies of the report were sent to City of Palo Alto.

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Attachment: 1. Agreement with the City of Palo Alto for Animal Control Services  
2. Proposed Bridge Contract with the City of Palo Alto